

Sinclair Broadcasting's force over their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

To represent it as 'news' is an acutely irresponsible use of the public airwaves. This is not merely the airing of a particular point of view which can be argued to have value in a 'free' public, when no other perspective is offered to counter this display of opinion.

When corporate control of biased opinion is so blatantly packaged as fact, as is the pattern of Sinclair Broadcasting, our country is being currentted dangerously toward facism. A long way from the shores of freedom we send young people to defend.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.